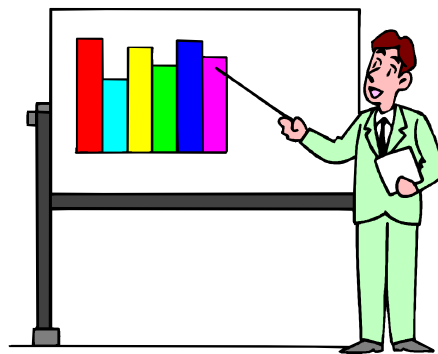# Vanquishing the VPD

4th Quarter 2007
A quarterly publication from the
Safety Section
Federal Aviation Administration Airports Division
Western-Pacific Region

This publication is primarily directed towards airport management to be disseminated to all levels of personnel working at your airfield. It does not matter how large or how small your airfield or how tight your budget may be, this information must be made available to your people by whatever means. Vanquishing the VPD can be accomplished through a solid partnership between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and airport management. The responsibility of making sure safeguards are in place; however, lies squarely on the shoulders of the airport management. Please use this information and all that follows as a guide by which to produce a safer environment at your airfield.

As of today, October 1, 2007, the FAA has changed its definition of the term "runway incursion". The FAA has now adopted the existing International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) definition. See FAA Fact Sheet online at: http://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=9612. The following is a comparison of the former definition and the newly adopted ICAO definition of "runway incursion" which goes into effect today:

**Superseded FAA Definition**

An occurrence in the airport runway environment involving an aircraft, vehicle, person or object on the ground, that creates a collision hazard or results in a loss of separation with an aircraft taking off, intending to takeoff, landing or intending to land. "Aircraft intending to land" is further defined to stipulate that the aircraft intending to land had to be within 1 mile of the landing threshold.

**Newly Adopted ICAO Definition**

An occurrence at an aerodrome involving the incorrect presence of an aircraft, vehicle or person on the protected area of a surface designated for the landing and take-off of aircraft.

Not only has the FAA now changed their definition of "runway incursion" but they have also adopted the ICAO classifications of runway incursion severities in favor or the familiar runway incursion severity classifications:

| Category | Superseded FAA Definition | Newly Adopted ICAO Definition |
|---|---|---|
| A | Participants take extreme action to narrowly avoid a collision or the event results in a collision. | A serious incident in which a collision is narrowly avoided. |
| B | There is a significant potential for a collision. | An incident in which there is a significant potential for collision, which may result in a time critical corrective/evasive response to avoid a collision. |
| C | There is ample time and distance to avoid a potential collision. | An incident characterized by ample time and/or distance to avoid a collision. (Combined old FAA C and D) |
| D | There is little or no chance of a collision. | Incident that meets the definition of a runway incursion such as incorrect presence of a single vehicle/person/aircraft on the protected area of a surface designated for landing and take-off. (Same as FAA old definition of a surface incident on the runway environment) |

The effect of the new changes will be as follows:
- The definition change will result in an increase in the number of reported runway incursions.
- There will be a change in runway incursion severity distribution.
- Surface incidents (SIs) involving the runway surface will now be classified as Category D runway incursions.
- The number and severity of VPDs involving the runway environment will change.

QUARTERLY STATISTICS

HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviation Tracking in the Western-Pacific Region**

| Calendar Quarter 2006 | | | | Calendar Quarter 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Month | Vehicle | Pedestrian | V/PD | Month | Vehicle | Pedestrian | V/PD |
| July | 1 | 2 | 3 | July | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Aug | 4 | 1 | 5 | Aug | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sept | 4 | 0 | 4 | Sept | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 9 | 3 | 12 | Total | 5 | 3 | 8 |

Total VPDs in the Western-Pacific Region in the calendar year 2005:  77

Total VPDs in the Western-Pacific Region in the calendar year 2006:  44

YTD VPDs in the Western-Pacific Region in the calendar year 2007:  42

Tracking statistics provided by the AT Quality Assurance website.

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Reproductions of this and subsequent issues of Vanquishing the VPD are available on FAA Website:
http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/airports/regional_guidance/western_pacific/airports_resources/newsletter/